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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 NEA-10 EUR-25 DPW-01

DRC-01 NIC-01 SY-10 /186 W
---------- 025819
R 211129Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE 7351
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, VS
SUBJECT: GVN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING COMMUNIST ASSASSINS

1. THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT BY GVN SPOKESMAN BUI BAO TRUC AT THE SEPTEMBER 20 P.M. BRIEFING FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IS OF INTEREST:

2. BEGIN QUOTE. YESTERDAY VO DONG GIANG, THE (DEPUTY) HEAD OF THE VIET CONG DELEGATION TO THE JMC TALKS, PROTESTED TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNEMENT FOR JAILING THE FIVE SO-CALLED "PATROTIC STRUGGLERS". I HAVE CHECKED, AND I HAVE FOUND THAT THESE FIVE MEN WERE CAPTURED IN NOVEMBER 1972 FOR ASSASSINATING LIEUTENANT GENERAL THANH OF THE CAO DAI BUDDHIST SECT. (NOTE: GENERAL NGUYEN VAN THANH, THEN HEAD OF THE CAO DAI VETERANS ASSOCIATION, WAS ASSASSINATED WITHIN THE CAO DAI HOLY SEA NEAR TAY NINH CITY IN NOVEMBER 1972. VC SNIPERS WERE SOON ARREST-
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ED WHO ADMITTED INVOLVEMENT.) AT THAT TIME, OUR GOVERNMENT

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CHARGED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE BEHIND THE PLOT, BUT THEY DENIED THE CHARGE. AND THEN, IN AUGUST, THEY WERE BROUGHT TO COURT AND SENTENCED. AND NOW THE VIET CONG, THE VIET-NAMESE COMMUNISTS, DECLARED THAT THESE FIVE PERSONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THEIR SIDE. THESE FIVE PEOPLE, THEY CALL THEM "PATRIOTIC STRUGGLERS". THAT MEANS THE VIET CONG NOW ADMIT THAT THEY TEMSELVES ASSASSINATED GENERAL THANH, AND BY DOING SO THE VIET CONG HAVE INDIRECTLY DECLARED WAR WITH THE CAO DAISTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS NOT GOING TO TURN THESE FIVE PEOPLE TO THE OTHER SIDE. THEY HAVE COMMITTED A CRIME, AND THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR THAT. THE COMMUNISTS CANNOT SEND CADRES, CANNOT SEND ASSASSINS TO OUR AREA OF CONTROL TO CARRY OUT THESE MURDERS AND THEN SIMPLY ASK US TO TURN THESE PEOPLE BACK TO THEM. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST GVN STATEMENTS WE HAVE SEEN PINNING BLAME ON THE COMMUNISTS FOR THE ASSASSINATION, ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST CULPABILITY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED ALREADY. THE STATEMENT SHOULD ASSIST IN REMOVING LINGERING DOUBTS IN SOME CAO DAI QUARTERS ON THIS MATTER. THE STATEMENT IS ALSO INTERESTING AS A CLEAR EXPRESSION OF THE GVN RATIONALE FOR LABELING SOME DETAINED COMMUNISTS AS COMMON CRIMINALS.
APPLING

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